

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 1, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego today handed up an indictment charging James Kronus with the Unlawful Discharge of Pollutants, in violation of the federal Clean Water Act. The indictment alleges that Kronus, owner of the Iron Factory, a golf club manufacturer in Escondido, California, illegally discharged industrial wastewater to the sewer system of the City of Escondido.

According to the indictment, in 1997 Kronus advised the city of Escondido that the Iron Factory had ceased all industrial discharges to the city sewer system. As a consequence, the Iron Factory's sewage discharge permit was modified to become a Zero Discharge Permit, and its connection to the municipal sewer system was sealed by concrete. The modified permit did not allow the discharge of any industrial wastewater to the sewer system of the city of Escondido, and it required the monthly filing of Certificates of Zero Discharge.

The indictment alleges that on a date unknown, but at least as early as May 2004, Kronus caused the concrete seal on the sewer connection to the Iron Factory to be broken, allowing unauthorized discharges of industrial wastewater to the city of Escondido sewer system to occur in violation of the Zero Discharge Permit.

United States Attorney Lam stated, “This prosecution demonstrates our commitment to protecting our water systems from industrial polluters.”

DEFENDANT

James Kronus

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

One Count

Unlawful Discharge of Pollutants, in violation of Title 33, United States Code, Section 1319(c)(2)(A) and 1342

Maximum Penalty: 3 years in custody and/or a \$50,000 fine per day of violation

Minimum Penalty: \$5,000 per day of violation

AGENCIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division

An indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.